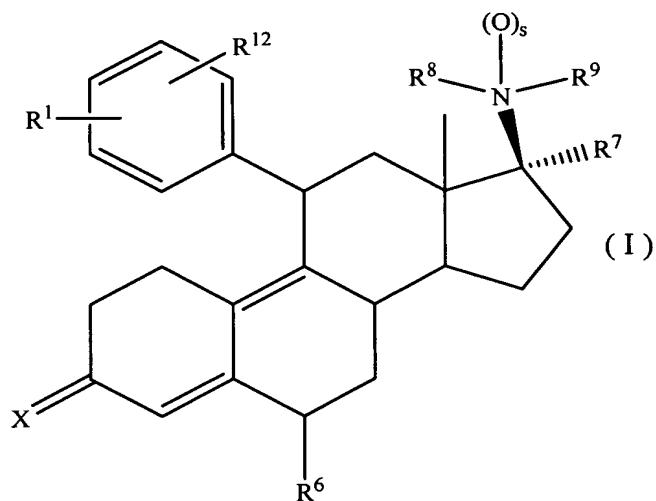


IN THE CLAIMS

1-2 (Canceled)

3. (previously presented) A steroid structure I



R¹-Ph is 4-aminophenyl, 4-(N-methylamino)phenyl, 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)phenyl, 4-(N-piperidino)phenyl, 4-(N-pyrrolidino)phenyl or 4-(N-morpholino)phenyl;

R¹² is H or halo;

X is O or NOH;

R⁶ is H;

R⁷ is 1-propynyl or 3,3,3-trifluoropropyn-1-yl;

s is 0 or 1;

R⁸ is H; and

R⁹ is CHO or CH₃CO.

4-6 (Canceled)

7. (previously presented) A method of therapeutically treating the activity of progesterone comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 3 to a patient in need thereof for a therapeutic purpose.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said therapeutic purpose is the treatment of endometriosis or uterine fibroids.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said therapeutic purpose is cervical ripening preparatory to labor and delivery of offspring.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said therapeutic purpose is the control or regulation of fertility.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said therapeutic purpose is hormone replacement therapy.

13-17 (Canceled)

18. (previously presented) The steroid compound
11 β -(4-(N,N-dimethylamino)phenyl)-17 β -(N-formamido)-17 α -(1-propynyl)estra-4,9-dien-3-one.

19. (previously presented) A method of therapeutically treating the activity of progesterone comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 18 to a patient in need thereof for a therapeutic purpose.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said therapeutic purpose is the treatment of endometriosis or uterine fibroids.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said therapeutic purpose is cervical ripening preparatory to labor and delivery of offspring.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said therapeutic purpose is the control or regulation of fertility.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said therapeutic purpose is hormone replacement therapy.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The steroid compound
17 β -(N-formamido)-11 β -(4-(N-piperidino)phenyl)-17 α -(1-propynyl)estra-4,9-dien-3-one.

26. (previously presented) A method of therapeutically treating the activity of progesterone comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 25 to a patient in need thereof for a therapeutic purpose.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said therapeutic purpose is the treatment of endometriosis or uterine fibroids.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said therapeutic purpose is cervical ripening preparatory to labor and delivery of offspring.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said therapeutic purpose is the control or regulation of fertility.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said therapeutic purpose is hormone replacement therapy.

31. (canceled)

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3, 7-10, 12, 18-23 and 25-30 will now be active in this application.

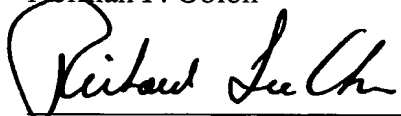
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants wish to thank examiner Coleman for allowing claims 3, 7-10, 18-13 and 25-30. Applicants have now canceled claims 16, 24 and 31 without prejudice to further prosecution of this subject matter in one or more continuation applications. Applicants note that cancellation of claims 16, 24 and 31 is not a narrowing amendment for the purposes of patentability and therefore does not limit interpretation of the claims under the doctrine of equivalents.

Applicants submit this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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